

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of ~~selecting~~sorting information stored in a data storage system, said information being stored as a plurality of data files, said method comprising the steps of:

defining at least one sort statement;

determining the value of a relevance parameter for each of the plurality of data files in the stored information in respect of the or each sort statement;

defining at least one sort statement site on a display ~~means~~, wherein a sort statement site represents a respective sort statement;

representing the data files as elements on the display ~~means~~; and

effecting movement of at least one element from an initial position on the display ~~means~~ towards one or more sort statement sites, the speed and direction of movement of respective elements being determined in accordance with the relevance parameter for their associated data files in respect of each statement so that differences in the data files cause the elements to move relative to one another, thereby to provide a visual indication of the data files being sorted on the display; ~~and~~

~~selecting at least one data file according to the position on the display means of its respective element.~~

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of accessing data in the selected data file.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of determining the value of the relevance parameter for each data file, for each sort statement, comprises the step of identifying the most relevant data file for each sort statement, assigning it a maximum relevance parameter value and determining respective ~~normalised~~ normalized values for the rest of the data files based on said maximum relevance parameter value.

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4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3 wherein the step of moving the elements comprises the step of determining a movement vector for each element based on the magnitude of the ~~normalised~~ normalized values of the respective data file and the direction of relevant sort statement sites relative to the element.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4 wherein the step of determining a movement vector for each element comprises the step of determining a component movement vector for the element in respect of each sort statement based on the magnitude of the respective ~~normalised~~ normalized value of the respective data file for the sort statement and the direction of the respective sort statement site to that element, and summing the component movement vectors.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4 wherein the elements move in steps and a movement vector is determined for each step.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein the display ~~means~~ comprises an array of pixels, and the movement vectors determine to which pixels the respective elements are moved ~~to~~ in each step.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4 further comprising the step of applying scaling factors to the respective movement vectors according to the respective positions of the elements on the display ~~means~~.

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9. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the step of applying scaling factors comprises the step of selecting a scaling factor area distribution.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of defining the or each sort statement comprises the step of displaying a list of available sort parameters on the display ~~means~~ and selecting a set of sort parameters from the list.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of defining the or each sort statement site comprises the step of selecting a respective

position on the display ~~means~~ which correspond to a point on the circumference of a circle.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein the initial position of the elements is defined at the ~~centre~~center of the circle.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein each element moves from its initial position towards a site which represents the most relevant sort statement for the respective data file.

319 14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of storing the selected data files.

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of pre-selecting at least one sub-class of data files to be sorted.

16. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of ~~pre-formatting the data files to be sorted~~restructuring a database into a series of individual data files.

17. (currently amended) A system for ~~selecting~~sorting information stored in a data storage system, said system comprising:

a display means;

a sort statement generator for generating at least one sort statement;

a position generator for positioning respective sort statement sites on the display means;

a data processor for determining the value of a relevance parameter for each of a plurality of data files in the stored information in respect of the or each sort statement;

and

319 a visual signal processor for representing the data files as elements on the display means and for simulating movement, including speed and direction of the movement, of at least one element from an initial position on the display means towards one or more sort statements in accordance with the relevance parameter for the associated data file in respect of each statement so that differences in the data files cause the elements to move relative to one another and provide a visual indication of the data files being sorted on the display means; and

~~a data selector for selecting at least one data file according to the position on the display means of its respective element.~~

18. (new) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information stored as a plurality of data files and being sorted is information related to calls.

19. (new) A method according to claim 18, wherein sort statements relate to at least one of the following: number of calls to a certain destination, duration of calls, and cost of calls.

20. (new) A system according to claim 17 wherein the data processor determines the value of the relevance parameter for each data file, for each sort statement, by identifying the most relevant data file for each sort statement, assigning it a maximum relevance parameter value and determining respective normalized values for the rest of the data files based on said maximum relevance parameter value.

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21. (new) A system according to claim 20 wherein moving the elements comprises determining a movement vector for each element based on the magnitude of the normalized values of the respective data file and the direction of relevant sort statement sites relative to the element.

22. (new) A system according to claim 21 wherein determining a movement vector for each element comprises determining a component movement vector for the element in respect of each sort statement based on the magnitude of the respective normalized value of the respective data file for the sort statement and the direction of the respective sort statement site to that element, and summing the component movement vectors.

23. (new) A system according to claim 21 wherein the elements move in steps and a movement vector is determined for each step.

24. (new) A system according to claim 23 wherein the display means comprises an array of pixels, and the movement vectors determine to which pixels the respective elements are moved in each step.

25. (new) A system according to claim 21 wherein scaling factors are applied to the respective movement vectors according to the respective positions of the elements on the display means.

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26. (new) A system according to claim 25 wherein applying scaling factors comprises selecting a scaling factor area distribution.

27. (new) A system according to claim 17 wherein defining the or each sort statement comprises displaying a list of available sort parameters on the display means and selecting a set of sort parameters from the list.

28. (new) A system according to claim 17 wherein defining the or each sort statement site comprises selecting a respective position on the display means which correspond to a point on the circumference of a circle.

29. (new) A system according to claim 28 wherein the initial position of the elements is defined at the center of the circle.

30. (new) A system according to claim 17 wherein each element moves from its initial position towards a site which represents the most relevant sort statement for the respective data file.

31. (new) A system according to claim 17 wherein the information stored as a plurality of data files and being sorted is information related to calls.

32. (new) A system according to claim 31 wherein sort statements relate to at least one of the following: number of calls to a certain destination, duration of calls, and cost of calls.
